

Please amend the subject application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims, without prejudice or disclaimer, to read as follows (pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, a marked-up copy of the amended claims is enclosed as a separate document):

8. (5X amended) A chimeric mouse model system for hepatitis comprising an immunetolerant mouse lacking functional T and B cells having a degenerated liver parenchyma due to expression of a urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA) gene present in the genome of said immunetolerant mouse, said degenerated liver being repopulated with transplanted xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes that are infected with a compatible mammalian hepatitis virus.

Sub 92
13. (Amended) The chimeric mouse model system of claim 8, wherein the immunetolerant mouse having degenerated liver parenchyma is hemizygous or homozygous for said urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA) gene and is homozygous for the Recombination Activation Gene 2 (RAG-2) knockout gene.

Sub 92
15. (4X Amended) A method for screening a test compound for anti-viral activity, comprising:

a. administering said test compound to an immunetolerant chimeric mouse lacking functional T and B cells which has a degenerated liver parenchyma due to expression of a urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA) gene present in the genome of said immunetolerant chimeric mouse, said degenerated liver being repopulated with transplanted xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes that are infected with at least one compatible mammalian hepatitis virus; and